

Pressure cooker bomb

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A **pressure cooker bomb** is a home-made bomb made by placing explosive material into a pressure cooker and attaching a blasting cap at the top of the cooker.^[1]

This type of bomb is a popular terrorist weapon. Al-Qaeda have published instructions for making pressure cooker bombs in an online *jihadi* magazine to encourage "lone wolf" attacks on enemies of *jihad*.^[2]

Pressure cooker bombs have been used in a number of attacks in the 21st century. Among them have been the 2006 Mumbai train bombings, 2010 Stockholm bombings (failed to explode), the 2010 Times Square car bombing attempt (failed to explode), and the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings.^[3]

Pressure cooker bomb



Pressure cooker fragment believed by the FBI to be part of one of the explosive devices used in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings

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Description

Pressure cooker bombs are relatively easy to make since - apart from the explosive itself - only readily available materials are needed. The bomb can be ignited using a simple electronic device such as a digital watch, garage door opener, cell phone, pager, kitchen timer, or alarm clock.^{[1][4]} The power of the explosion depends on the size of the pressure cooker and the amount and type of explosives used.^[5]



Pressure cooker

Like a pipe bomb, the pressure cooker contains the energy of the explosion and allows it to build up before it releases, and allows low explosives to be used to produce a relatively large explosion.^[6] The fragmentation of the pressure cooker itself creates potentially lethal shrapnel.^[6]

History

2000–09

Ten Islamic militants were convicted of planning to blow up a market in Strasbourg, France, on New Year's Eve 2000.^[7]

From 2002–04, pressure cooker bombs were widely used in terror and IED attacks in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan.^[8]

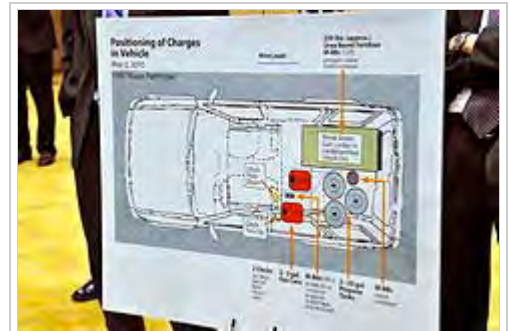
In 2003, a terrorist from Chechnya named Abudullah, carrying a pressure cooker bomb detonated explosives and killed six people after being arrested near Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan.^[9] The Taliban claimed responsibility.^[9] In 2004, the Department of Homeland Security issued an alert to federal and state security officials warning: "A technique commonly taught in Afghan terrorist training camps is the use/conversion of pressure cookers into IEDs."^[8]

In July 2006, in Mumbai, India, in the 2006 Mumbai train bombings seven pressure cooker bombs detonated on commuter trains, killing 209 people and injuring 714.^[7] According to Mumbai Police, the bombings were carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba and Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).^[10]

2010–present

Step-by-step instructions for making pressure cooker bombs were published in an article titled "Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom" in the Al-Qaeda-linked *Inspire* magazine in the summer of 2010, by "The AQ chef".^{[11][4][12][13]} The article says "the pressurized cooker is the most effective method" for making a simple bomb.^[14] It describes how to fill the cooker with shrapnel and gunpowder, and to create a detonator using the filament of a light bulb and a clock timer.^[15] Analysts believe the work was the brainchild of Anwar al-Awlaki, and edited by him and by Samir Khan.^{[16][17]} *Inspire's* goal is to encourage "lone wolf" Jihadis to attack what they view as the enemies of *Jihad*, including the United States and its allies.^[18]

More recently there were three Islamic radical terrorist cases in the West that involved pressure cooker bombs.^[8] The unsuccessful Times Square car bombing attempt in May 2010, in New York City, included a pressure cooker bomb which failed to detonate.^{[8][19][10][7]} The bomb-maker, Faisal Shahzad, was sentenced to life in prison.^[7] In the December 2010 Stockholm bombings, a suicide bomber with extreme views on Islam set up a pressure cooker bomb, which failed to detonate.^{[8][20]} In July 2011, Naser Jason Abdo, a U.S. Army private at Fort Hood, Texas, who took pressure cooker bomb-making tips from the Al-Qaeda magazine article, was arrested for planning to blow up a restaurant frequented by U.S. soldiers. Two pressure cookers and bomb-making materials were found in his hotel room.^{[21][8][19]} He was sentenced to life in prison.^[19]



Justice Department diagram showing positioning of pressure cooker in Faisal Shahzad's vehicle in New York's Times Square bombing

In Pakistan, in March 2010, terrorists bombed the U.S.-based Christian aid group World Vision International, killing six employees, using a remotely detonated pressure cooker bomb.^{[19][22]} In October 2012, French police found a makeshift pressure cooker with bomb-making materials near Paris as part of an investigation into an attack on a kosher grocery store.^[10]

Two pressure cooker bombs were used in the Boston Marathon bombings in April 2013.^[23] The pressure cookers were filled with nails, ball bearings, and black powder, and the devices were triggered by kitchen-type egg timers.^[24]

See also

- Car bomb
- Nail bomb
- Time bomb

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External links

- US Department of Homeland Security information leaflet on pressure cooker bombs (<http://info.publicintelligence.net/DHSpressurecookerieds.pdf>), July 1, 2010

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Categories: Bombs | Explosives | Explosive weapons

| Improvised explosive devices | Terrorism tactics

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ROLL CALL RELEASE

In Collaboration with the ITACG



1 July 2010

(U) Pressure Cookers as IED Components

(U//FOUO) Rudimentary improvised explosive devices (IEDs) using pressure cookers to contain the initiator, switch, and explosive charge (typically ammonium nitrate or RDX) frequently have been used in Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Pressure cookers are common in these countries, and their presence probably would not seem out of place or suspicious to passersby or authorities. Because they are less common in the United States, the presence of a pressure cooker in an unusual location such as a building lobby or busy street corner should be treated as suspicious.

(U) Examples of Recent Attacks Involving Pressure Cooker Devices

- (U//FOUO) One of the three devices used in the 1 May 2010 attack in Times Square incorporated a pressure cooker containing approximately 120 firecrackers.
- (U//FOUO) In March 2010, terrorists used a remotely detonated pressure cooker bomb in an attack on World Vision International in Pakistan.

(U) Indicators of Pressure Cooker Devices

(U//FOUO) Terrorists can exploit the innocuous appearance of easily transportable items such as pressure cookers to conceal IED components. Placed carefully, such devices provide little or no indication of an impending attack. Alertness and quick reaction to discovery of such concealment devices in unusual locations or circumstances can improve chances of early detection and prevention of an attack. Potential indicators of a pressure cooker configured as an IED include:

- (U) Protruding wires or fuses.
- (U) Unusual smells such as chemical odors.
- (U) Wetness or unusual stains on a container.
- (U) Apparent abandonment of a pressure cooker in a high traffic or otherwise strategic location.



(U//FOUO) Pressure Cooker IEDs.

(U) DHS provides detailed information for law enforcement on improvised explosive devices at TRIPwire.dhs.gov or the TRIPwire Community Gateway (<http://cs.hsin.gov>). For further information on TRIPwire and bombing prevention, contact the DHS Office for Bombing Prevention at obp@dhs.gov.

IA-0349-10

(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Homeland Counterterrorism Division, the FBI/Directorate of Intelligence, and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, and private sector first responders in developing deterrence, prevention, preemption, or response strategies.

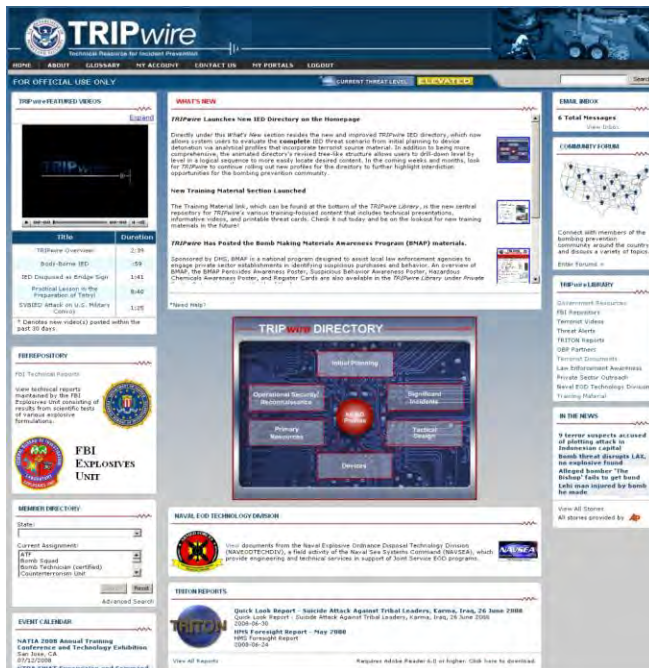
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TRIPwire, the Technical Resource for Incident Prevention (www.tripwire.dhs.gov), is the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) 24/7 online, collaborative, information-sharing network for bomb squad, law enforcement, and other emergency services personnel to learn about current terrorist improvised explosive device (IED) tactics, techniques, and procedures, including design and emplacement considerations. Developed and maintained by the National Protection and Programs Directorate's Office of Infrastructure Protection (NPPD/IP), the system combines expert analyses and reports with relevant documents, images, and videos gathered directly from terrorist sources to help law enforcement anticipate, identify, and prevent IED incidents.

Information Sharing for the IED Threat: the TRIPwire One-Stop Resource

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- TRIPwire allows first responders to meet and stay connected with counterparts in other jurisdictions and with experts in the bombing prevention community.
- TRIPwire news feeds provide first responders with access to up-to-the-minute, IED-specific event coverage.
- Expert-validated TRIPwire profiles and cutting-edge terrorist IED videos and artifacts give the bombing-prevention community access to mission-critical information.



TRIPwire: the Single Online Resource for Comprehensive IED-Related Information



Terrorist-source Materials, Expert-validated IED Analysis, and Collaboration Tools for the Bombing Prevention Community



Cutting-Edge Terrorist IED Videos, Documents, and Resources

System Facts and Feedback

- More than 68 million site hits since June 2006
- More than 15,377 registered users and over 2,465 certified bomb technicians, representing 50 Federal departments and agencies, 39 military units, 770 State and local agencies
- More than 75 private sector organizations
- National print, online, and television media exposure, including:



“To its credit, the Department of Homeland Security has not been flat-footed in its efforts to keep up with the IED threat...One of [the Department of] Homeland Security's most important initiatives is called TRIPWIRE – Technical Resource for Incident Prevention. This program shares the latest information about IED threats including the materials and techniques used to assemble weapons... This information helps businesses identify suspicious activity – customers that ought to be brought to the attention of law enforcement agencies.”

- James Carafano, The Washington Examiner, November 27, 2011



“I had an opportunity to use the information trends from the ... reports to help our threat assessment for the 2006 Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.”

- Bomb Technician, LAPD

“[TRIPwire has] been incredibly useful, being able to analyze and compare different IEDs.”

- Bomb Technician, Miami PD

“[TRIPwire] helped our department standardize the training we provide to our first responders (Fire and Police) and has been a great recourse for our department.”

- Homeland Security Officer, Miami PD



For additional information, please contact the TRIPwire Helpdesk at 866-987-9473 | tripwirehelp@dhs.gov



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17 July 2010. A sends:

I'm usually a great fan and supporter of your website, but I'm surprised that you've decided to publish Al Qaeda's Inspire article on bomb making instructions. The magazine is already widely accessible through Islamic forums, and publishing this specific article only helps Inspire promoters to further reach additional readers and activists seeking such expertise using simple explosives that could reveal dangerous and lethal to handle for any non professional. I hope you will reconsider your decision to post this article.

16 July 2010

A points to Internet Archive:

<http://ia360709.us.archive.org/3/items/Majala-Inspire-1/>

../			
Majala-Inspire-1-High.djvu	11-Jul-2010	16:44	10279054
Majala-Inspire-1-High.gif	11-Jul-2010	11:55	217570
Majala-Inspire-1-High.pdf [Excerpt below]	11-Jul-2010	11:03	31831565
Majala-Inspire-1-High_abbyy.gz	11-Jul-2010	15:15	2253170
Majala-Inspire-1-High_djvu.txt	11-Jul-2010	17:26	164181
Majala-Inspire-1-High_djvu.xml	11-Jul-2010	15:18	1603026
Majala-Inspire-1-High_jp2.zip	11-Jul-2010	11:52	101404378
Majala-Inspire-1-High_scandata.xml	11-Jul-2010	17:25	20251
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Majala-Inspire-1-Medium.djvu	11-Jul-2010	16:23	10283446
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium.gif	11-Jul-2010	11:54	198492
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium.pdf	11-Jul-2010	10:59	11736014
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_abbyy.gz	11-Jul-2010	13:19	2232949
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_djvu.txt	11-Jul-2010	17:25	158198
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_djvu.xml	11-Jul-2010	15:17	1543594
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_jp2.zip	11-Jul-2010	11:26	93690528
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_scandata.xml	11-Jul-2010	16:01	20251
Majala-Inspire-1-Medium_text.pdf	11-Jul-2010	16:01	13724358
Majala-Inspire-1_files.xml	11-Jul-2010	17:26	5994
Majala-Inspire-1_meta.xml	12-Jul-2010	22:22	3053
Majala-Inspire-1_reviews.xml	13-Jul-2010	21:12	711

<http://ia360709.us.archive.org/3/items/Majala-Inspire-1/Majala-Inspire-1-High.pdf>

Cryptome mirror: <http://cryptome.net/Inspire.zip> (Complete, uncorrupted, 67 pages, Zipped Secured PDF, 31MB)

Excerpted from *Inspire*, Summer 1431/2010

Summer 1431 | 2010



INSPIRE

« ...AND INSPIRE THE BELIEVERS »

Periodical Magazine issued by the al-Qā'idah Organization in the Arabian Peninsula

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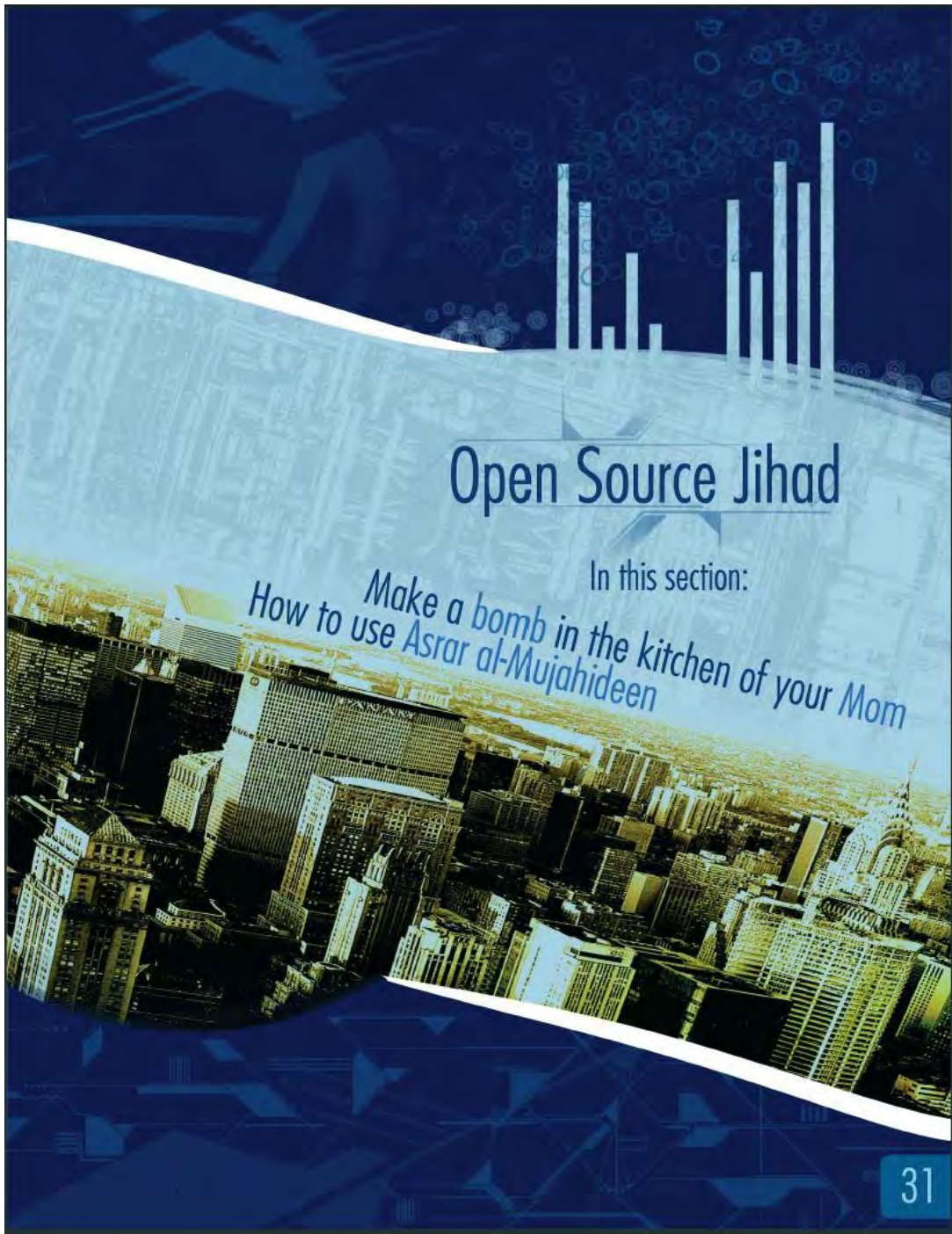
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A resource manual for those who loathe the tyrants; includes bomb making techniques, security measures, guerrilla tactics, weapons training and all other jihād related activities.

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- It allows Muslims to train at home instead of risking a dangerous travel abroad: *Look no further, the open source jihād is now at hands reach.*

Make a bomb in the kitchen of your Mom

The AQ Chef

Can I make an effective bomb that causes damage to the enemy from ingredients available in any kitchen in the world? The answer is yes. But before how, we ask why? It is because Allāh ﷻ says: **So fight in the cause of Allāh; you are not held responsible except for yourself. And inspire the believers [to join you] that perhaps Allāh will restrain the [military] might of those who disbelieve. And Allāh is greater in might and stronger in [exemplary] punishment** [an-Nisā': 84].



And it is also because every Muslim is required to defend his religion and nation. The Jews and Christians have dishonored the Muslims, desecrated our holy places, and cursed the beloved Prophet ﷺ. Today they are holding contests for the best blasphemy of Muhammad ﷺ.

The Western governments today are waging a relentless war against Islam. They brought together a coalition and have the support of their population in invading and destroying Muslim land.

But there is a small band of sincere Muslims who are striking back at the enemy. The efforts of this small group of *mujāhidīn* have had a great effect in hindering the plans of the enemy. So now we have a balance of forces. As they kill Muslims, Muslims respond by killing among them. This is the effect of a small group of sincere *mujāhidīn*, so what would the effect be if the Muslim *ummah* wakes up?

There are many Muslims who have the zeal to defend the *ummah* but their vision is unclear. They believe that in order to defend the *ummah* they need to travel and join the *mujāhidīn* elsewhere and they must train in their camps. **But we tell the Muslims in America and Europe:** There is a better choice and easier one to give support to your *ummah*. That is individual work inside the West such as the operations of Niḍāl Hassan and Faisal Shahzād. With a few "failed" operations - as they claim - the director of national intelligence was forced to resign. With a few more "failed" operations we may have the resignation of the President of the United States.

My Muslim brother, who wants to support the religion of Allāh: do not make too many calculations and forecasting of the results and consequences. It is true that Umar al-Fārūq and his brothers Niḍāl Hassan and Shahzād were imprisoned, but they have become heroes and icons that are examples to be followed. We ask Allāh ﷻ to grant them steadfastness. If they were sincere and steadfast, their imprisonment would be an increased status for them. The *ḥadīth* says: **"If Allāh loves a people, He would put them through trials."** The result of these trials would be the highest levels of Paradise, the pleasure of Allāh, heaven in the hearts in this world and eternal pleasure in the Afterlife. My Muslim brother: **we are conveying to you our military training right into your kitchen to relieve you of the difficulty of traveling to us.** If you are sincere in your intentions to serve the religion of Allāh ﷻ, then all what you have to do is enter your kitchen and make an explosive device that would damage the enemy if you put your trust in Allāh ﷻ and then use this explosive device properly. Here are the main qualities of this bomb:

- Its ingredients are readily available.
- Buying these ingredients does not raise suspicion.
- It is easily disposed of if the enemy searches your home. Sniffing dogs are not trained to recognize them as bomb making ingredients.
- In one or two days the bomb could be ready to kill at least ten people. In a month you may make a bigger and more lethal bomb that could kill tens of people.

There are two types of explosions:

First: Chemical explosion. This explosion causes great pressure that would kill living beings within a certain radius. Examples are all the military grade explosives such as TNT, C4 and RDX.

Second: Mechanical explosion. This results from the burning of an inflammable material within a confined space. An example is putting gunpowder inside an iron pipe with a small opening enough only for a fuse. When the gunpowder is ignited, great pressure results from the gunpowder turning into gases and which result in the exploding of the iron pipe, turning it into shrapnel flying at high speed.

I. Preparation of the explosive device:



1. Inflammable substance
2. Decoration lamp (what is normally used for Christmas trees)
3. Iron pipe

A. Preparation of the inflammable substance

This substance is a mixture of two ingredients:

- The substance found in heads of matches
- Sugar

B. How to extract the inflammable substance:



1. Strike the head of the match softly with anything (here, we used a tube) to break up the inflammable substance.
2. Grind the substance and filter it to obtain a fine powder.
3. In the picture you will see the fine powder and you add to it sugar equivalent to ¼ its quantity.
4. Mix the two substances until they become uniform in color.

C. Preparation of the decoration lamp

We will proceed to break the top of the lamp by heating it. Make sure the filament does not break. The filament is the part which when electricity passes through it, it glows and produces light.



1. Heat the head of the lamp until it becomes black.
2. Place the lamp immediately in water while still hot.
3. Strike the tip of the lamp and it would break.

D. Preparation of the iron pipe:



- Drill a hole into the pipe
- The second image shows how the pipe looks after drilling a hole into it.

E. Final preparation of the device:



1. Pour some of the inflammable substance into the lamp. Do so gently in order not to tear the filament, which is very sensitive. The device would not explode if the filament is torn.
2. Insert the lamp into the pipe with the wires sticking out.
3. Fill in the pipe with the inflammable substance. Avoid having any of the substance on the treads of the pipe so that it won't ignite when closing the pipe.
4. Wrap tape around the pipe to close the hole which was drilled into the pipe only leaving the wires sticking out. The tape will surround the wires – closing any gaps in the pipe hole – and not be wrapped over them.



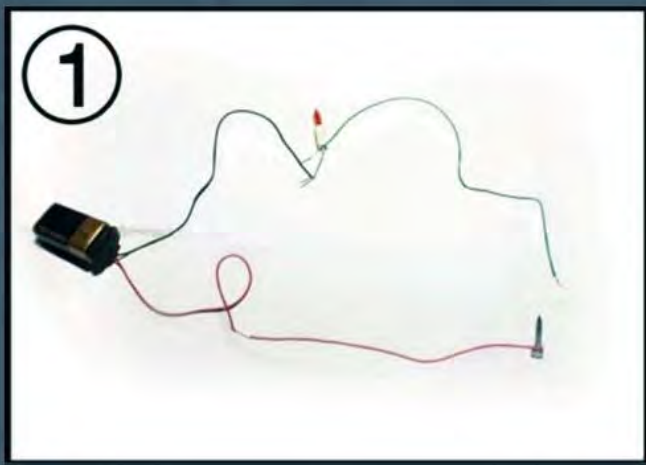
You may substitute the inflammable substance extracted from matches by gunpowder used in cartilages. You may also use powder from fireworks instead.

Note: You do not have to use one substance. You may mix together the substance from matches, gunpowder and fireworks but when doing so you need to mix it well.

II. The electricity source

A. Introduction

The importance of the electricity source in the explosive device is that it is the key in igniting the device. The electricity that is sufficient to turn on the small lamp is sufficient to cause the explosion. This electric current may reach to the lamp directly through a battery, by a timed circuit or by a remote controlled circuit.



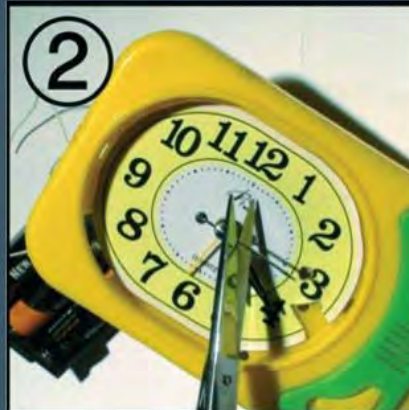
We have chosen for you the timed circuit as it is simple. We set up a circuit which is composed of:

- A 9V battery.
- A wire connected to the "+" of the battery and a nail (the red wire)
- A wire connected to the "-" of the battery and a test lamp (the black wire). Note: you may use any small lamp here. Take notice that this is not the lamp we filled before with the inflammable substance.
- We connect from the other pole of the lamp a green wire. When this wire touches the nail the circuit is closed and the lamp should light.

Note: the colors of the wires here are for demonstration purposes.

Setting the Clock:

1. Connect the green wire which is connected to the lamp to one of the clock arms.
2. Insert the nail into the dock face. This way when the arm of the clock moves it will touch the nail and the lamp would light.

Steps for setting up the clock:

1. Disassemble the clock.
2. If you want to set up the explosion to occur within an hour, cut off the arms of the clock except for the minutes arm. If you want more than an hour, you cut off all arms except for the hour arm.
3. Make a hole in the face of the clock to insert the nail.
4. Insert the nail through the hole and connect the green wire to the hour arm. Make another hole if necessary for the green wire.



1. Figure 1 displays the electric circuit in the clock when the hour arm hasn't touched the nail.
2. Figure 2 displays the electric circuit in the clock when the hour arm has touched the nail, lighting up the lamp.
3. Now disconnect the test lamp from the circuit and connect instead of it the two wires coming out of the iron pipe. When the circuit is connected as in step two, the device would explode. You may hide the 9V battery inside the clock if you want to.

- Take notice of the following:
- Make sure to cover all wires and also cover the battery in order to prevent any unwanted electric connections.
 - Test the dock at least ten times on a test lamp to make sure it is working properly.
 - It is better to use a small clock if concealment is important to you.

It is important to put a quantity of small nails on the surface of the iron pipe from the inside. You do that



by sticking them to the wall of the pipe by using glue. The pipe used here is a 2 inch one. The inflammable substance used to fill it was extracted from 80 match heads.

The explosion that results from this device is a mechanical one. It results from the pressure caused by the gases and therefore it only works if contained in a high pressure environment. So you may use iron pipes, pressure cookers, fire extinguishers, or empty propane canisters. The point is that the inflammable substance needs to be



contained in a strong container that would allow the pressure to build up and thus cause a damaging explosion.

However in order to fill for example, a pressurized cooker with the substance from matches, it may take a lot of matches to do so and therefore you may want to use gunpowder or the powder from fireworks.

You need to also include shrapnel. The best shrapnel are the spherical shaped ones. As you can see in the figures below, you need to glue them to the surface of your canister. If steel pellets are not available you may use nails instead.

Above is a 2-inch iron pipe with nails inside it. You fill in the inflammable substance afterwards.

The next three points illustrated by the previous images are for shrapnel used with a gas canister.

1. The shape of nails.
2. You may place the nails in a mold and pour glue over them and when dry you remove them from the mold.
3. Wrap the molded nails around the canister.

After wrapping the shrapnel around the canister, empty the canister from the gas and open the valve and fill it with the inflammable substance. Insert the lamp with the wires sticking out just as you did earlier with the iron pipe.

With that said, here are some important steps to take for an effective explosive device:

- Place the device in a crowded area.
- Camouflage the device with something that would not hinder the shrapnel such as cardboard.

The iron pipe method is effective if more than one is used simultaneously. To do so, bundle one wire from each pipe together and then bundle the remaining wires together as you may see in the illustration to the bottom right. One bundle would represent the green wire which connects to the clock's hour arm. The other bundle connects to the "-" on the battery.

The pressurized cooker is the most effective method. Glue the shrapnel to the inside of the pressurized cooker then fill in the cooker with the inflammable material. Insert the prepared lamp gently in order not to break the filament of the lamp. Then have the wires sticking out of the hole in the lid of the cooker. Wrap



some tape around the hole to seal any openings and connect the wires to the

electric source in the same way as we did with the iron pipe.

The following are a few safety precautions:

1. Put your trust in Allāh and pray for the success of your operation. This is the most important rule.
2. Wear gloves throughout the preparation of the explosive to avoid leaving behind fingerprints.
3. This is an explosive device so take care during preparation and handling.

In this article we covered one of many ideas for the lone *mujāhid*. We ask Allāh ﷻ to assist our brothers in targeting His enemies and we ask Allāh ﷻ to grant us victory.

